

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03204 251624Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2646

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3204

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, CT, UK, US

SUBJ: GOLDSMITH DETENTION

REF: (A) BANGUI 1549, (B) BANGUI 1543, (C) BANGUI 1527,

(D) BANGUI 1524, (E) BANGUI 1523, (F) BANGUI 1510

(G) YAOUNDE 3143

1. I BRIEFED BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAUNDERS ON REFTELS A AND B MONDAY AM AND HE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL A. HE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH FCO THIS MATTER SEPARATELY. HE HAS BEEN FULLY AND PROMPTLY BRIEFED ON ALL REPORTING WITH RESPECT GOLDSMITH DETENTION, PARTICULARLY ON DESIRABILITY OF GETTING BRITISH CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE TO BANGUI ASAP(REFTELS C THROUGH F). IT WAS IN ORDER TO GET BRITISH REP TO BANGUI QUICKLY THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO INFORM DOUALA CONSUL PRINCE WHO WAS THEN IN NDJAMENA THAT HE SHOULD TAKE FLIGHT OF 21ST. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR BRITISH TO SEND REP ON DOUALA-BANGUI FLIGHT OF JULY 21 BECAUSE CONNECTING FLIGHT YAOUNDE-DOUALA LEFT SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTEL E AND AMBASSADOR FELT PRINCE WAS MOST QUALIFIED FOR JOB. WHEN PRINCE UNABLE MAKE CONNECTION HE RETURNED TO YAOUNDE AND AMBASSADOR FELL

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03204 251624Z

BACK ON CHARTER. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SEND PRINCE BACK TO NDJAMENA TO TAKE SUNDAY AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT, SINCE CAMAIR FLIGHT SCHEDULED ARRIVE NDJAMENA ONLY HOUR BEFORE ETD AIR AFRIQUE, AND THIS PARTICULAR CAMAIR FLIGHT FREQUENTLY LATE. NEXT FLIGHT DOUALA-BANGUI NOT UNTIL EVENING 26TH, AND TAHT INVOLVES CARAVELLE THAT REPORTEDLY AT DISPOSAL OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA AND SOMETIMES DOES NOT MEET SCHEDULE.

AMBASSADOR ALSO CONSIDERED SENDING PRINCE BY LANDROVER, BUT THAT DIFFICULT TWO-DAY TRIP. PERHAPS DETERMINING FACTOR WAS THAT AP AGREED PAY FOR CHARTER FLIGHT. IN ANY CASE, WE ONLY ACTED AS RELAY POINT BETWEEN BANGUI AND BRITISH AND BELIEVE TELEX MESSAGE SENT BY BRITISH (REFTEL A) ACCURATE REFLECTION OF STATE OF PLAY AT TIME.

2. OBVIOUSLY IT DIFFICULT DEAL WITH GOVERNMENT THAT CLAIMS IT WANTS CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE COME AND REPRESENT INTERESTS CITIZEN AND THEN ARGUES ABOUT MODALITIES OF ARRIVAL IN SPITE OF ADVANCED WRITTEN INFORMATION ON SUBJECT. USING MURPHY'S LAW THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO WRONG THAT CAN GO WRONG, IN SPITE ASSURANCES, GOCAE COULD RAISE QUESTION ABOUT PRINCE BEING ABLE REPRESENT BRITISH INTERESTS SINCE PRESENTLY NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE ELSE DULY ACCREDITED.

3. ABOVE RECAP TO EXPLAIN SOME OF FACTORS WHICH DETERMINED BRITISH CHOICE OF CHARTER FLIGHT. SEPTTEL BEING SENT ON YAOUNDE DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE.
MITHOEFER

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